

Message Text

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72

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PC-10 AID-20 CPR-02 SCA-01 PPT-02 VO-03

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AGR-20 DRC-01

/152 W

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R 191516Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9695

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SF

SUBJ: SAG VISA POLICIES

REF: PRETORIA 3422, OCTOBER 24, 1972

1. DURING APRIL 18 CONVERSATIONS WITH FONSEC FOURIE (REPORTED SEPTELS), AMBASSADOR AND DCM AGAIN RAISED LONG-STANDING PROBLEM OF SAG DISCRIMINATION IN ISSUING LAISSEZ-PASSERS (LPS) TO AMERICAN PERSONNEL INSTEAD OF VISAS. WHILE ADMITTING THAT SAG HAD IN FACT FOLLOWED THROUGH ON ITS ASSURANCES THAT LPS WOULD BE ISSUED QUICKLY AND RELATIVELY EFFICIENTLY (REFTEL), AMBASSADOR SAID FACT REMAINED THAT US DIPLOMATS AND OTHER USG OFFICIALS ASSIGNED TO BLS COUNTRIES ARE BEING DENIED VISAS CONTRARY TO US-SA VISA AGREEMENT OF 1956. SUCH OFFICIALS NORMALLY RECEIVE INITIALLY IN WASHINGTON OR ELSEWHERE ONLY A FIVE-DAY, SINGLE-ENTRY LP. UPON ARRIVAL AT POST, EMBASSY

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PRETORIA THEN MUST OBTAIN ONE-YEAR, MULTIPLE-ENTRY LPS FOR THEM.

THIS PROCESS NOT ONLY ANNOYING AND INCONVENIENT BUT INITIAL AND ROUTINE ISSUANCE OF SINGLE-ENTRY DOCUMENT IS IN VIOLATION OF US-SA VISA AGREEMENT. PRESENT PROCEDURES APPEAR PARTICULARLY POINTLESS, SINCE END RESULT IS ONE-YEAR, MULTIPLE-ENTRY DOCUMENT IN ANY CASE. AMBASSADOR URGED THAT SAG RE-EXAMINE THIS POLICY AND BRING IT BACK INTO LINE WITH VISA AGREEMENT BY ISSUING ONE-YEAR, MULTIPLE-ENTRY VISAS TO OUR OFFICIALS UPON INITIAL APPLICATION.

2. AMBASSADOR ALSO RAISED FAR MORE CUMBERSOME AND TIME-CONSUMING PROCESS INVOLVED IN OBTAINING LPS FOR PERSONNEL OF BLS PEACE CORPS AND USAID PERSONNEL NOT HOLDING DIPLOMATIC OR OFFICIAL PASSPORTS. THESE ARE RESTRICTED TO SINGLE-ENTRY (OR SERIAL SINGLE-ENTRY) LPS VALID FOR VERY LIMITED PERIODS OF TIME. AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED INORDINATE AMOUNT OF MAN-HOURS EXPENDED IN MAKING CURRENT PROCEDURES WORK, INVOLVING AS IT DOES MAJOR PORTION OF EMBASSY CONSULAR OFFICER'S (AND LOCAL EMPLOYEES') TIME, THAT OF THEIR COLLEAGUES IN BLS COUNTRIES, PLUS SAG PERSONNEL IN DFA AND MIN INTERIOR.

3. AMBASSADOR REMINDED FOURIE OF FACT THERE NO SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS IN RECENT YEARS INVOLVING THESE PERSONNEL, SUGGESTED THAT SAG NERVOUSNESS ON THIS SCORE MISPLACED AND URGED SAG TO LIBERALIZE ITS PROCEDURES BY ISSUING PROPER VISAS TO THIS CATEGORY OF PERSONNEL AS WELL. HE REITERATED OUR CONVICTION THAT PRESENT SAG PROCEDURES CONSTITUTED LACK OF RECIPROCITY AND WERE THEREFORE IN VIOLATION OF US-SA VISA AGREEMENT.

4. FONSEC FOURIE DIRECTED DEPUTY FONSEC VAN DALSEN, WHO ALSO PRESENT, TO RE-EXAMINE CURRENT SAG VISA PROCEDURES IN LIGHT AMBASSADOR'S DEMARCHE BUT CAUTIONED THAT SINCE OTHER SAG DEPARTMENTS WERE INVOLVED, PROCESS MIGHT BE TIME-CONSUMING ONE.

5. COMMENT: IN LIGHT SAG'S WELL-KNOWN ANTIPATHY TOWARD PEACE CORPS AND ITS NERVOUSNESS ABOUT LOSING STRICT CONTROL ON ENTRY OF THOSE PERSONNEL, WE ANTICIPATE REAL DIFFICULTIES IN GETTING SAG TO REVISE SIGNIFICANTLY ITS CURRENT PROCEDURES FOR THOSE PERSONNEL NOT HOLDING DIPLOMATIC OR OFFICIAL PASSPORTS. WE ARE MORE SANGUINE, HOWEVER, THAT SAG MAY IN FACT BE RESPONSIVE TO REGULARIZING VISA PROCESS FOR OFFICIALS.

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Message Attributes

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